



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/415,392	10/08/1999	DMITRY A. RAYKHMAN	D21-001	4774

7590 08/25/2003
COLEMAN SUDOL SAPONE, P.C.
714 COLORADO AVENUE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06605-1601

EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3627

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/415,392

Applicant(s)

RAYKHMAN, DMITRY A.

Examiner

James S McClellan

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-13, 16-25 and 55-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-13, 16-25 and 55-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 8, 2003 has been entered.

Amendment

2. Applicant's submittal of an amendment was entered on August 8, 2003, wherein:

- claims 1-8, 10-13, 16-25, and 55-66 are pending;
- claims 9, 14, and 15 have been canceled;
- claims 1, 2, 10, 16, 22, and 58 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, 58, and 61-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,980,826 (Wagner).

Art Unit: 3627

In regards to independent **claim 1**, Wagner discloses a method for trading a commodity comprising: receiving, in encoded form via a computer network, a plurality of bids and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common commodity (see Figure 23 which shows a list of buys and a list of sells); displaying said bids and offers on a computer monitor (see Figure 23); generating a trading offer including a trading rate or price per unit of said commodity (see Figure 23, PRICE), and a number of units of said commodity (see Figure 23, QTY is quantity); automatically calculating a total stop amount (see column 8, lines 36-39) for said trading offer, said total stop amount being a monetary amount required to cover a stop execution on said trading offer (see column 20, lines 14-62), said total stop amount including a primary quantity equal to a stop value multiplied by the number of units of said commodity included in said trading offer; automatically comparing said total stop amount with an available amount in a client or trader account (see column 20, lines 57-58 and block 72 of Figure 2 which includes "accounting" functions); transmitting a digital signal encoding said trading over said computer network for distribution to multiple traders (see column 7, lines 41-44); **[claim 4]** automatically allocating or reserving said total stop amount from the available amount in said client or trader account (via clearing system 38 as shown in block 72 of Figure 2); **[claim 5]** canceling at least a portion of said trading offer and automatically returning at least a portion of the allocated or reserved amount to said client or trader account upon such cancellation (via button 682 and in column 13, lines 29-31); **[claim 6]** said digital signal is transmitted upon and only upon a determination that said total stop amount is less than the available amount in said client or trader account (via clearing system 38 as shown in block 72 of Figure 2); **[claim 7]** the generating of said trading offer and the comparing of said total stop amount with the available amount in said

Art Unit: 3627

client or trader account are performed by a client or trader computer ("smart" remote terminals 18 and 20) connected to said computer network; **[claim 8]** the transmitting of said digital signal includes directing said digital signal to a server computer (central processor 13 of trading system 12) connected to said computer network, said server computer distributing said trading offer to said traders; **[claim 9]** the calculating of said total stop amount includes automatically multiplying a default stop per unit (inherent feature of system since the trading offer is calculated via a price and quantity) times the identified number of units (quantity) of said commodity in said trading offer; **[claim 10]** said trading offer additionally includes identification of said stop value as a stop amount per unit of said commodity, **[claim 11]** displaying on said monitor (see Figure 23) a prompt for entry of a stop value (inherent feature when implementing a system for conditional orders, see paragraph bridging columns 15 and 160; notice prompt for data entry in Figure 23); determining that a respective stop value has been selected for said trading offer, forwarding, via said computer network, said respective stop value to a server computer (13) together with said trading offer; **[claim 12]** displaying on said monitor (see Figure 23) a prompt for entry of a limit value (inherent feature when implementing a system for conditional orders, see paragraph bridging columns 15 and 160; notice prompt for data entry in Figure 23); determining that a respective limit value has been selected for said trading offer, forwarding, via said computer network, said respective limit value to a server computer (13) together with said trading offer; **[claim 13]** displaying on said monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value (inherent feature when implementing a system for conditional orders, see paragraph bridging columns 15 and 160; notice prompt for data entry in Figure 23) for which said trading offer remains valid and capable of being accepted; determining that a respective time period has been selected for

Art Unit: 3627

said trading offer; determining when said time period is terminated (inherent by definition of a “time order”); canceling said trading offer upon termination of said time period (inherent by definition of a “time order”); **[claim 14]** displaying said bids in a first monotonic sequence on a computer monitor (see Figure 23, notice both buy and sell columns); simultaneously displaying said offers in a second monotonic sequence on said computer monitor (see Figure 23, notice both buy and sell columns); and **[claim 15]** displaying, on said computer monitor (see Figure 23), total units of said commodity for trading at prices identified in said bids and sad offers.

In order not to burden the Office Action with redundancy, limitations detailed above will not be repeated in the detailed analysis of the remaining claims.

In regards to independent **claim 58**, Wagner discloses a method for use in trading a commodity, comprising: acting on said trading offer only upon determining that said total stop amount and said available amount meet a predetermined criteria (via clearing system 38 at block 72 as shown in Figure 2); **[claim 61]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 4; **[claim 62]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 5; **[claim 63]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 1; **[claim 64]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 6; **[claim 65]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 7; and **[claim 66]** see detailed analysis set forth above for claim 8.

5. Claims 16, 17, 22, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,136,501 (Silverman et al. ‘501).

In regards to amended independent **claim 16**, Silverman et al. ‘501 discloses a method for trading currencies (see column 6, lines 25-26), comprising receiving, via a computer network (22), digital signals together encoding a plurality of bids (see column 6, lines 61-63, “enter a

Art Unit: 3627

bid”) and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common currency (see column 6, lines 61-63, “enter an offer”); displaying said bids in a first monotonic sequence on a computer monitor (see Figures 4 and 5); simultaneously displaying said offers in a second monotonic sequence on said computer monitor (see Figures 4 and 5); monitoring a computer input device (see column 7, lines 2-5, “pointing device such as a mouse”); upon detecting a signal from said input device (mouse) of a predetermined type encoding a trading order for requesting a transaction on one of said bids and said offers, automatically calculating a total currency amount of carrying out said order and comparing said total currency amount with a capital amount available in a given account to determine if said capital amount is sufficient (see column 3, lines 55-60); a upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital is available in said account, transmitting an order signal over said computer network to a server computer (20; see column 7, lines 5-13), said order signal encoding a trading order for requesting a transaction on one of said bids and said offers (see column 7, line 6, “transaction request”); **[claim 17]** displaying on said monitor a plurality of prompts for particulars of a trading offer (inherent), said prompts including prompts to enter a price per unit of said currency and a total number of units of said currency (see column 3, lines 42-44, “price, and available quantity”); determining entry via said input device (mouse) of a trading offer including at least said price per currency unit and said total number of currency units (see column 3, lines 42-44, “price, and available quantity”); and forwarding said trading offer over said computer network to multiple other traders on said computer network (see 26a, 26b).

In regards to amended independent **claim 22**, Silverman et al. ‘501 discloses a method for use in trading currencies, comprising: displaying, on a computer monitor connected to a

Art Unit: 3627

computer (24a) in turn connected to a computer network (22, see Figure 1), a plurality of prompts (inherent) for particulars of a trading offer, said prompts including prompt to enter a price per unit currency and a total number of units of said currency (see column 3, lines 42-44, “price, and available quantity”); determining entry via an input device of said computer (see column 7, lines 2-5, “pointing device such as a mouse”) of a trading offer including at least a price per currency unit and total number of currency units (see column 3, lines 42-44, “price, and available quantity”); automatically determining whether sufficient capital exists in a given account of a trader utilizing said computer, to cover a trade executable on said trading offer for said total number of currency units (see column 3, lines 55-60); and upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital exists in said given account, forwarding said trading offer to a server computer (10) over said computer network (22) for relay to other traders on said computer network (22).

In regards to amended independent **claim 55**, Silverman et al. ‘501 discloses a currency trading method comprising: receiving at a server computer (10) a first digital signal over a computer network (22) from client’s computer (24a), said first digital signal ending a trading offer (see column 6, lines 61-63, “enter an offer”) including identification of a currency, a trading rate or price per unit of said currency, and a number of units of said currency (see column 3, lines 42-44, “price, and available quantity”); operating said server computer (10) to maintain (i) a first queue of bids ordered by price per currency unit (see Figure 4, left hand side of figure) and times of extending of the respective bids (Fig. 4, “TIME ORDER OF BIDS”) and (ii) a second queue of offers to sell ordered by price per currency unit (see Figure 4, right hand side of figure) and times of extending of the respective offers to sell (Fig. 4, “TIME ORDER OF

Art Unit: 3627

OFFERS”); operating said server computer (10) to determine whether said trading offer matches any entry in said first queue and said second queue (see column 6, lines 61-63, “matching transaction”); upon detection by said server computer (10) of a match between said trading offer and a particular entry in said one of said first queue and said second queue, operating said server computer to (a) modify accounts of traders who made said trading offer and said particular entry (see column 7, lines 16-20, “payments and exchanges may be completed”), (b) remove said particular entry from said one of said first queue and second queue (inherent once transaction is complete); (c) transmit signals over said computer network (22) to advise all logged-in traders of the match (see column 7, line 46, “broadcast message”), and (d) sending specific confirmation to the traders who made said trading offer and said particular entry (message 32); [claim 56] said trading offer is placed in a respective one of said first queue and said second queue upon receiving of said trading offer at said server computer (10), the operating of said server computer (10) to determine whether said trading offer matches any entry in said first queue and said second queue including comparing said bids to said offers to sell to determine whether a match has occurred (see column 7, lines 7-9, “find matches”), said server (10) being operated, upon detection by said sever computer (10) of the match between said trading offer and said particular entry, to remove said trading offer and said particular entry from respective ones of said first queue and said second queue (see column 21, line 11, “removed from the system”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3627

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 3, 59, and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner in view of Equis International AAIL Computerized Investing Newsletter May/June 1998 (hereinafter Equis).

Wagner discloses all the claimed steps as set forth above except for the step of including a slippage amount in the trading offer.

Equis teaches the use of a trading system that allows the system to account for slippage (see page 4, lines 20-24).

In regard to claims 3 and 60, it would have been obvious to calculate slippage by automatically multiplying a default slip per unit (price) of said commodity times the identified number of units (quantity) of said commodity in said trading offer since that is how Wagner calculates a trading offer, price times quantity.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wagner with the step of accounting for slippage as taught by Equis, because accounting for a slippage amount in a trading system "add[s] realism to a trading system" (see Equis, page 7, line 20).

8. Claims 18-20 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverman et al. '501 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,029,146 (Hawkins et al.).

Silverman et al. '501 discloses all of the claimed steps as set forth above except for expressly disclosing displaying on a monitor a entry for a stop value [claims 18, 23], a limit

Art Unit: 3627

value [claims 19, 24], and a time period [claims 20, 25] and including entry of each as part of the trading offer transmission.

Hawkins et al. teaches the steps of displaying on a monitor a entry for a stop value (see Figure 10, 448, "Stop Price"), a limit value (426, "Price Limit"), and a time period (422, "Time Limit") and including entry of each as part of the trading offer transmission.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Silverman et al. '501 with the optional entry of stop values, limit values, and a time period as taught by Hawkins et al., because adding optional exchange requirements allow the user to customize the trading offer to meet his/her personal preferences and improve the versatility of the system.

9. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,265 (Woolston).

Silverman et al. '501 discloses all of the claimed steps as set forth above except for the step of downloading from said computer network a program enabling and controlling the displaying of said bids and said offers on said computer monitor in response to said digital signal.

Woolston teaches the use of downloading a software from a global network (Internet, see column 4, line 64) for commercial use by a user (see column 3, lines 7-13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Silverman et al. '501 with step of downloading software from a global network as taught by Woolston, because downloading software is generally quicker and cheaper

Art Unit: 3627

than buying software via mail or retail. Downloading software does not require expensive packaging and it does not require shipping delays.

10. Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverman et al. ('501) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,924,082 (Silverman et al. '082).

Silverman et al. '501 discloses all of the claimed steps as set forth above except for the steps of operating said server computer to: supervise the establishment of multiple private chat forums; and distribute message among logged-in traders according to established chat forums.

Silverman et al. '082 discloses the steps of operating said server computer to: supervise the establishment of multiple private chat forums (via box 410, see Figure 4A); and distribute message among logged-in traders according to established chat forums.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Silverman et al. '501 with the dialog box of Silverman et al. '082, because the dialog box allows the traders to negotiate a trade without a complete commitment to the trade. This feature allows the traders to "test the water" before commitment to a trade, wherein providing a desirable feature to improve trading.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed August 8, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 15, final paragraph (also page 20, first full paragraph), Applicant argues Wagner's reference to a "stop order" (see column 4, line 36) does not meet the current definition for "total stop amount" as currently required in amended claim 1. The Examiner agrees, but

Art Unit: 3627

maintains that Wagner still anticipates claim 1 as amended. As set forth above, Wagner discloses a clearing system (38) that constantly checks to maintain that users have sufficient funds to complete transactions. Wagner's clearing system inherently discloses a "total stop amount" being a monetary value above the trading offer, wherein it is further inherent that the monetary value is equal to given value greater than the cost of a single item multiplied by the desired quantity. The "total stop amount" feature is inherent within the clearing system (38) of Wagner because Wagner constantly checks to ensure that sufficient funds are available (see column 8, lines 24-44).

On page 17, final paragraph, Applicant argues that Silverman fails to disclose a method a trading order is not communicated unless it has been automatically determined by the party tendering order has funds in a pre-established or given account to cover the order. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Silverman et al. discloses "blocking or inhibiting" completion of the transaction when the user fails to have sufficient funds to complete the transaction (see column 3, lines 55-60). Additionally, Applicant argues that Silverman "says **nothing** about automatically calculating a total currency amount for carrying out a trading order, comparing the total currency amount with a capital amount available in a given account, and transmitting an order signal on the trading order upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital is available in the account." For reasons set forth above, the Examiner disagrees. In column 3, lines 55-60, Silverman et al. clearly sets forth a trade is inhibit until confirmation of sufficient funds. It is inherent that a calculation is made to determine a "total currency amount" since Silverman et al. compares a required currency amount with the users credit limits.

Art Unit: 3627

On page 18, final paragraph (continued on page 19), Applicant argues that Silverman et al. fails to disclose that the same server computer that maintains queues of bids and offers is operated to determine whether a trader offer matches any bid or offer also modifies accounts of traders who made trading offers on which a trade is executed. It appears that Applicant is arguing that claim 55 requires said server to modify the accounts without additional help. As set forth in Silverman et al. (see column 7, lines 13-20), the server (central system 20) informs a clearing agency so that payments can be completed. The server (20) is responsible to initiate the act of modifying the accounts by informing the clearing agency. Without the operation of the server (20) to inform the clearing agency, the modification of accounts would not occur. Therefore, the server (20) operates, along with the clearing agency, act to modify the accounts as required by claim 55. It is noted that the preamble of claim 55 uses the term "comprising", not *consisting*, which therefore allows for additional elements not claimed.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

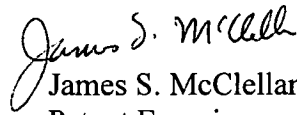
Art Unit: 3627

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 (Official communications) or
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


James S. McClellan
Patent Examiner
A.U. 3627

jsm
August 20, 2003